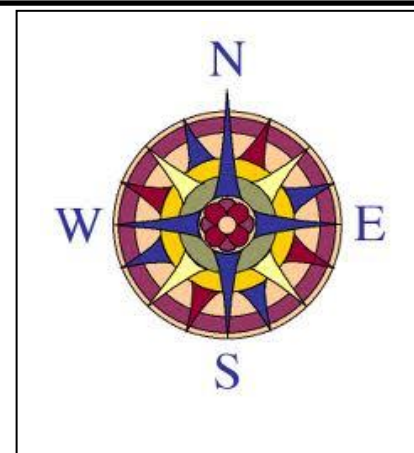




## Site 04: Dead Horse Bay

N 40° 34' 39.11"

W 73° 53' 39.33"



You are standing on the South-Western tip of what was originally called Barren Island. This island of approximately 300 acres was originally a site inhabited seasonally by the Lene - Lenape people, before European contact. The Island was likely given its name from the Dutch who called it Beeren Eylant or Bear's Island. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, its relatively close distance from New York City and downtown Brooklyn, with easy access by boat made it an ideal location for industry. From 1850 until the development of Floyd Bennett Field in 1931, a horse rendering facility processed New York City's dead horses into usable items, like horse hair, hides, tallow, grease and fertilizer. Similarly, a factory that processed the fish Menhaden for fertilizer added to the industry here, making it one of the largest fertilizer plants of its kind in the world. The shoreline you are on was augmented with sand covered with sanitary landfill (garbage) by the City of New York. Today you can see bottles eroding from this fill, along the shoreline.

**Visit Instructions:** The view from this point to the Southeast is of the Rockaway Peninsula. Your view of the Atlantic has been obscured by the decades - long westward accretion of sand extending the Rockaway Peninsula. Approximately 1.5 miles due West, past the community of Breezy Point, is a white tower. This was built as a gun sighting platform for the 16 inch guns at Fort Tilden. Note its geometric shape.